BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1971

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	-	Margaret H. F. Turnbull M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	-	D. A. Pamphilon, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (SENIOR)	-	J. Stocker, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS	-	Miss W. Ridley, Diploma P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.
	-	T. Townsend, Diploma P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

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Westgate,
Bridgnorth.

June 1972.

To: The Chairman and Councillors

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances in the District for the year 1971.

Following the usual pattern it contains all the information required by the Department of Health and Social Security. As in previous years the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. A. Pamphilon, has been entirely responsible for the sections on Environmental Hygiene, Housing and Food Supervision.

My grateful thanks are due to all who have assisted in the preparation of this Report and in particular to Mr. D. A. Pamphilon and Miss C. M. Bryan.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

MARGARET H. F. TURNBULL
Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres	125,668
Estimated Population (Mid-1971)	31,990
Number of Inhabited Houses (at 31.12.71.)	11,623
Rateable Value of the District (at 1.4.72.)	£1,144,582
Estimated Product of 1p Rate (at 1.4.72.)	£10,850

VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

There were 507 live births in the year in 1971 of which 23 were illegitimate (4.5%)

The Birth Rate for the year (standardised for comparison with the corresponding Rate for other areas) was 16.4 per 1,000 of the population. This is almost the same as the average Birth Rate for England and Wales of 16.0.

A more detailed analysis of the birth figures is given below:-

LIVE BIRTHS 1971

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	244	12	256
Female	240	11	251
Total	484	23	507
Rate per 1,000 of population	15.1	0.7	15.8

Crude Birth-Rate, per 1,000 of population	-	15.8
Standardised Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population	-	16.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1971	-	16.0

(b) Stillbirths

There were 7 stillbirths in the District in 1971, giving a Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (i.e. live births and Stillbirths combined) of 14.0. This is a little higher than the England and Wales figure for 1971 of 12.0.

2. DEATHS

There were 319 deaths in the area during 1971, the various causes of which are detailed in the Annual Return of the Registrar-General below.

Conditions affecting the Heart and Circulatory System accounted for 55.8% of the deaths - a rather higher percentage of the total than in recent years. 93 men and 85 women succumbed from such causes.

Malignant disease in various forms was responsible for 63 deaths, 33 male and 30 female. This represents 19.7 of the total number.

The standardised Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 10.7, which is below the England and Wales figure of 11.6.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1971

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity Etc.	2	-	2
Oesophagus	1	-	1
Stomach	5	2	7
Intestine	2	5	7
Lung, Bronchus	14	1	15
Breast	-	5	5
Uterus	-	2	2
Prostate	3	-	3
Leukaemia	2	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms	4	15	19
Diabetes Mellitus	2	2	4
Other Endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system	1	1	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart disease	1	-	1
Hypertension disease	2	7	9
Ischaemic Heart disease	42	29	71
Other forms of heart disease	13	12	25
Cerebrovascular disease	27	28	55
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	9	17
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	6	9	15
Bronchitis & Emphysema	15	3	18
Other diseases of Respiratory system	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	2	2	4
Intestinal obstruction & hernia	-	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	1
Other diseases of digestion system	1	1	2
Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	3	3
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	2	2	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	1	1
Symptoms & ill-defined conditions	3	-	3
Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	6
All other accidents	-	2	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
All other external causes	1	2	3
All causes	169	150	319

NUMBER OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE

	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	3	3	6
4 weeks and under 1 year	-	-	-
1-4 years	1	1	2
5-14 years	2	1	3
15-24 years	-	1	1
25-34 years	2	2	4
35-44 years	4	-	4
45-54 years	14	5	19
55-64 years	28	14	42
65-74 years	57	42	99
75 and over	58	81	139
All ages	169	150	319

3. INFANT MORTALITY

There were 6 infant deaths in 1971, all of which occurred within the first week of life.

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 12.0, which is well below the Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales of 18.0.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE, 1971

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	3	-	3
Female	3	-	3
Total	6	-	6

Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births - 12.0
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births - 18.0
(England and Wales 1971)

4. MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths related to pregnancy or childbirth in 1971.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES

All hospitals in the area are administered by Birmingham Regional Hospital Board through its various Hospital Management Committees.

The general hospitals most easily accessible to inhabitants of the Rural District are those at Bridgnorth, Kidderminster, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. All provide out-patient and in-patient facilties and maternity services.

Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the isolation hospitals at Wolverhampton or Shrewsbury and patients with Tuberculosis receive initial treatment at Copthorne Hospital or Cross Houses Hospital.

The chronic sick requiring hospital treatment are generally admitted to one of the following Institutions: New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton; East Hamlet Hospital, Ludlow; Shifnal Hospital; The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

These services are administered by the Salop Executive Council, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

3. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Salop County Council, as Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision and administration of the following services:-

Health Centres (none as yet in this area)
Care of mothers and young children
Domiciliary Midwifery
Health visiting
Home nursing
Vaccination and Immunisation
Ambulance Services
Prevention of illness, care and after-care
Domestic Help services

(a) Child Health

Clinic Sessions

Child Health Centre, Northgate, Bridgnorth	Mondays	9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
	Thursdays	1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Youth Club, Highley	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Child Health Centre, Broseley	1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
British Legion Hall, Much Wenlock	2nd & 4th Tuesdays	1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Mobile Clinic Sessions

Well Meadow Estate, Bridgnorth	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	9.45 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.
Working Men's Club Car Park, Alveley	1st Wednesday	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Plough Hotel Car Park, Claverley	3rd Wednesday	2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

All parents are now offered Clinic appointments for developmental paediatric examinations when their children are 6 weeks old and again at the age of 2 years. Any defects found are followed up and referrals made for treatment where necessary. Most mothers are very pleased to take advantage of this service.

A test of hearing is also carried out on all children at about the age of 9 months.

(b) Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery

The District is well served by full-time and part-time staff of the County Health Department.

(c) Vaccination and Immunisation

Under the County Council's scheme, children up to school-leaving age may receive protection against Diphtheria, Whooping-Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles (with appropriate booster doses as required) by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Health Centre or Mobile Clinic by appointment. Protection against German Measles is also available for girls approaching adolescence.

As from July 1971 routine vaccination against Smallpox was discontinued. It was considered that the likelihood of contracting Smallpox nowadays in this Country was so slight as not to justify the continuation of vaccination as a routine procedure in infancy and childhood.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis is offered each year to all children aged 11-13 years who are found by preliminary testing to require this protection. Only very few parents refuse their consent for this procedure, which is carried out at the schools.

(d) Ambulance Service

The Central Ambulance Department for the County is in Shrewsbury (Telephone No. Shrewsbury 6331) to which all requests for an ambulance should be made.

(e) Domestic Help Service

The service of a domestic help is available, in the words of the Act, for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age". Enquiries regarding this service are dealt with at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury during normal Office hours. Telephone No. Shrewsbury 52211 Ext. 397.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Mr. D. A. Pamphilon the Council's Senior Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

The work of the Public Health Department during the year has again embraced all those aspects of environmental health duties which are made the Statutory responsibility of the Council by various Acts of Parliament.

An endeavour has been made to make brief reference in this Report to these various duties but I would particularly draw attention to the work carried out by the Council's Public Health Inspectors in the matters of meat and poultry inspection. It is arduous work requiring a great deal of concentration which is of necessity carried out in unpleasant conditions often out of Office hours.

During the year the Public Health Department was made responsible for various aspects of the work entailed in the allocation of Council house accommodation. It is considered that this work has fitted in well with the Department's existing duties under the Housing Acts and that the integration of this work has proved successful.

WATER SUPPLIES

The responsibility for providing mains water supplies to the Rural District is that of the East Shropshire Water Board and the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking. However, the Public Health Act 1936 and other legislation make it a duty of every local authority to ensure the sufficiency and wholesomeness of the water supplies in their district.

EAST SHROPSHIRE WATER BOARD

Joint High Level Water Supply Scheme

The area supplied by this Scheme comprises the upland Parishes to the West of the District. Water is taken from the Elan Aqueduct and pumped to a storage reservoir at Coreley from which it is fed by gravity to the distribution system after chlorination. The Ditton Priors and Monkhopton areas are supplied with water from the Board's service at Stoke St. Milborough.

It is disappointing that this scheme is still not completed. It is estimated that pipelines still to be laid should be capable of serving 24% of the total properties in the total scheme.

One of the areas still to be served is the Hillside area of Ditton Priors. This is considered to be one of the areas of the District now most in need as properties in this area rely on springs and shallow wells many of which are known to be unsatisfactory in both quality and quantity.

Low Level Water Supply Scheme

The above Scheme was completed by the Rural District in 1962 and now serves some 20 Parishes within the District.

Water for the Scheme is taken from the Elan Aqueduct at four points where it is chlorinated and distributed by gravity, fluorides being added to the water at source by Birmingham Corporation. The Scheme is also supplemented in certain areas by water from the source at Stoke St. Milborough.

Much Wenlock

Water is supplied from a borehole situated off the Broseley Road where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at the rear of the Lady Forester Memorial Hospital. The supply is distributed by a balanced system. No fluoridation of this supply is carried out.

Broseley

Water is supplied from a borehole at Beckbury where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at Posenhall and distributed by gravity. No fluoridation of this supply is carried out.

WOLVERHAMPTON WATER UNDERTAKING

Bridgnorth Borough

Water is supplied from a borehole at Roughton which was commissioned on the 30th June 1971. Here it is chlorinated and pumped to reservoirs at The Hermitage and Ludlow Road and then distributed by gravity to the town. The Rindleford supply has now been abandoned.

A new main from the borehole at Roughton to the reservoir at The Hermitage was completed during the year.

Claverley, Worfield and Rudge

These Parishes are within the Statutory Area of the Wolverhampton Water Undertaking and the main centres of population are well served. The water comes from boreholes at Hilton where it is chlorinated and distributed throughout the Parishes.

Reports from the Wolverhampton Water Engineer show that water supplied to the District is adequately chlorinated and satisfactory in quality. No fluoridation of the supply is carried out.

PURITY OF SUPPLIES

(a) Mains Supplies

Regular routine sampling of all public mains supplies is carried out by the Health Department to ensure that chlorination has been effective and that no pollution has occurred in the course of distribution.

Samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Shrewsbury for bacteriological examination. A summary of the reports received during 1971 is as follows:-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Elan Aqueduct (not chlorinated)	3	Nil
East Shropshire Water Board	73	6
Wolverhampton Water Undertaking	8	Nil

Where samples on analysis are found to be unsatisfactory, they are immediately brought to the attention of the appropriate Water Authority. Further check samples are taken to ensure the supply is satisfactory.

(b) Private Supplies

Such supplies from wells, springs, etc. must always be looked upon with suspicion. This again is shown by the results of samples taken from these supplies during the year. Of 28 samples taken, 17 proved to be unsatisfactory on bacteriological analysis.

In areas of sparse population it is most unlikely that mains water supplies will be available to every household. This makes it imperative

that those private supplies which do exist must be protected from possible pollution. Unfortunately many such supplies are of a shallow nature and are subject to chemical pollution from the use of fertilisers as well as bacteriological pollution from inefficient disposal of sewage and effluents. Where users of such supplies are worried or have reason to believe pollution is taking place, contact with the Health Department will ensure that the supply is sampled and appropriate action taken where necessary

PREMISES RECEIVING WATER FROM PUBLIC PIPED SUPPLIES AT 31ST DECEMBER 1971

	No. of Houses 31.12.71.	Connected to Public Mains 31.12.71.
Acton Round	42	7
Alveley	622	540
Astley Abbotts	156	111
Aston Botterell	27	5
Aston Eyre	24	1
Barrow	-	-
Billingsley	40	37
Bridgnorth	-	-
Broseley	-	-
Burwarton	45	4
Chelmarsh	155	132
Chetton	118	65
Claverley	531	439
Cleobury North	38	9
Deuxhill	8	7
Ditton Priors	191	33
Eardington	136	117
Easthope	28	-
Farlow	68	15
Clazeley	9	5
Highley	1,000	989
Kinlet	191	167
Middleton Scriven	27	13
Monkhopton	59	21
Morville	121	65
Much Wenlock	-	-
Neen Savage	107	94
Neenton	32	17
Quatt	91	47
Romsley	38	20
Rudge	36	5
Shipton	43	-
Sidbury	14	2
Stanton Long	57	4
Stockton	-	-
Stottesdon	273	176
Sutton Maddock	-	-
Tasley	75	74
Upton Cressett	13	-
Worfield	710	597

N.B. No figures are available for those areas added to the District as a result of the Salop Orders 1966.

In addition to the above, a further 43 properties in the Parish of Worfield are served by private estate main which is fed by a bulk supply from the East Shropshire Water Board borehole at Harrington.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are eleven public sewerage schemes within the Council's area, at Alveley, Bridgnorth, Broseley (2), Claverley, Eardington, Highley, Homer, Much Wenlock, Stottesdon and Worfield.

Alveley

It is hoped that work will be commenced in early 1972 to provide a sewer to serve properties in the Woodlands Estate area where a most serious public health nuisance exists from the effluent of septic tanks.

The sewage disposal works are working at design capacity and difficulty is experienced in maintaining a satisfactory effluent. The need to provide an extention to the works in the near future is one of the more important projects in the Council's future capital programme.

Bridgnorth

As reported in previous years serious overloading at the Stanley Lane Sewage Disposal Works exists and a satisfactory effluent is only achieved by re-circulation and irrigation of part of the effluent over grass land.

Confirmation was received during the year from the Department of the Environment for the provision of a new sewage disposal works at The Slads, Eardington which should relieve the overloading of the Stanley Lane Works and make provision for the sewerage of other areas not previously catered for, namely Quatford and Danesford. It is anticipated work will commence early in 1972.

Broseley

The area is served by two disposal works at Fish House and Dark Lane. The effluent from the Fish House disposal works improved during the year but was still not up to River Authority standards and proceedings were instituted for an alleged contravention of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act 1951 but were not pursued. An investigation was held on the 12th January 1971 and confirmation was later received from the Department of the Environment, for the provision of a new sewerage scheme for Broseley and part of Barrow and the provision of a sewer to the Gitchfield Sewage Disposal Works of the Telford Development Corporation. A considerable amount of work has been carried out at the Fish House Disposal Works enabling the effluent to be irrigated over grass. This has resulted in an improved effluent.

Claverley

The works for this Village continue to produce a satisfactory effluent.

Eardington

The disposal works are still overloaded although the drainage from the private slaughterhouse no longer enters the works. The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared drawings for the drainage of the Village to the proposed Slads Sewage Disposal Works, when the existing works in the Village will be abandoned.

Highley

Flows at this works are in excess of design capacity but an improvement in the effluent has been achieved by re-circulating the effluent at the rate of approximately 1 d.w.f. This can only be temporary and extensions to meet the ultimate demands for the Village will still have to be taken.

In an endeavour to help the situation the humus tanks have been converted to Banks clarifiers and in addition the Council's Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a scheme for an extension of the works.

Homer

A satisfactory effluent is being produced from these works and an appreciable proportion of properties in the area are now connected.

Much Wenlock

During the year both Contracts of Stage III were completed i.e. the provision of new sewers. The provision of these sewers will eliminate some long-standing public health problems which followed heavy rain and sudden storms.

Stottesdon

It must again be reported that the response from owners of property with regard to connections to the Public Sewer has been disappointing and as a result only 50% of the works is at present in commission.

Worfield

Although these works are at design capacity, a satisfactory effluent is produced.

Programmed Schemes

Ackleton & Stableford

Work commenced during the year and satisfactory progress can be reported regarding this Scheme.

Morville

Confirmation of the Scheme had still not been received during the year from the Department of the Environment.

Hilton

No further progress can be reported with regard to this Scheme which will eventually be a joint scheme with Worfield and Wyken.

Chorley

No more definite forecast can be made for the commencement of this Village scheme, but the scheme is considered to be essential if houses in the Village are to be improved and provided with modern amenities.

Danesford & Quatford

Serious public health nuisances exist in this area where crude sewage is discharged to the River Severn. The areas will be sewered when the new Disposal Works is completed at The Slads.

Ditton Priors

With the increased use of mains water supplies in this Village, public health nuisances are becoming increasingly evident in ditches and brook courses. The Consulting Engineers were instructed during the year to prepare a Scheme for the Village for inclusion in a future Capital Programme. It is hoped that the implementation of this will not be too long delayed.

Future Schemes and Policy

The Council are aware that they will have for many years to come a commitment to provide sewage disposal schemes in many villages and hamlets throughout the District.

The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare outline Schemes in the following areas:-

Astley Abbotts
Aston Botterell
Brockton
Burwarton
Button Oak
Oreton
Tasley

Other areas of the District must now be considered, such as Chelmarsh, Button Bridge and the Heathton/Draycott areas, where public health nuisances exist owing to the difficulties in disposing of effluent from septic tanks.

A considerable number of properties exist in the Norton/Sutton Maddock areas and a scheme will no doubt be necessary in this area in the future. The present system of sewage treatment is rather primitive in many cases.

The provision of Schemes in all these areas will undoubtedly be costly when compared with previous Schemes but it is considered that these more rural areas of the District should have equal opportunity of sewage disposal facilities especially where the disposal of effluent results in the pollution of ditches and watercourses.

Council House Sewage Disposal Plants

There are 23 private sewage disposal plants serving various Council house sites. These receive regular maintenance together with the public sewage disposal plants by mobile teams of attendants.

Private Sewage Disposal

The Council operate a septic tank/cesspool emptying service of which increasing use was made during tye year, enabling users of such drainage systems to carry out their maintenance more efficiently and economically. The service is now being used to its maximum and the Council will have to make provision for its extension in the near future.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service is by the Council's direct labour, all Parishes receiving a weekly collection.

The paper sack system of refuse collection is now used by all properties throughout the District resulting in a hygienic back door collection to householders and a cleaner and more acceptable task to the men performing the service.

Refuse is still disposed of by tipping on land, some five sites being used for this purpose.

Every endeavour is made to ensure that refuse on these sites is covered immediately and mechanical methods are used but the scattered nature of the tips presents a constant problem.

If the Council are going to continue with this method of refuse disposal it is clear that controlled tipping in a hygienic manner will only be achieved if a central tip is used where mechanical means of covering the refuse can be employed regularly.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

A local authority is responsible by the provisions of Part 1 of the Factory Act 1961 for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary accommodation in factories where mechanical power is used. In the case of factories where mechanical power is not used the general working conditions are also supervised.

At the end of 1971 there were 104 factories on the Register, all using mechanical power.

In addition to visits made by the Council's Public Health Inspectors, factories are also visited by Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate who refer any relevant contraventions of the Act to this Authority. It is now clear that such dual inspections are an unnecessary use of man power and the Factories Act should become the sole responsibility of Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate.

All plans of new factories or conversions are scrutinised by the Health Department in order to ensure that they comply with the relevant legislation.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act makes provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in offices or shops premises and certain railway premises.

There are now 287 registered premises employing 1,281 persons in the Council's area, 11 premises being registered during the year. Some 205 visits were made to these premises for the administration of the Act and its relevant regulations during the year.

All registered premises have now received an initial inspection when the various provisions and requirements of the legislation were brought to the occupier's attention. In addition to such premises receiving further visits to ensure that any contraventions which have been brought

to the occupier's attention have been dealt with, it will be necessary to make re-inspections of premises as time progresses.

One of the principal objects of the Act is to ensure that employees work in conditions as free as possible from occupational hazards.

Generally speaking, good co-operation has been received from occupiers of registered premises when contraventions of this legislation have been brought to their attention.

AGRICULTURE, (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of the above Act place a duty on local authorities in connection with the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms where agricultural workers are employed.

Specific visits are not made to agricultural holdings for this purpose but when such premises are visited, the subject is borne in mind.

No requests for the enforcement of this legislation have been received during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

The above Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats and dogs is carried on. 7 establishments are licensed by the Council.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

One premises is licensed by the Council.

AIR POLLUTION - CLEAN AIR ACT 1956/68

Visits are always made to factories whenever excessive emissions of dark smoke are noted and the management's attention is drawn to their responsibilities under the above Act. Generally speaking very good co-operation is received from management in this respect and any occasional emission has been found to be caused by breakdown in boiler plants. On no occasion has it been found necessary to resort to legal proceedings to secure compliance with the relevant requirements of this legislation.

However, it has been necessary to give increased attention to the burning of refuse and waste products by various industrial concerns including garage premises, where on occasions quite serious pollution has been caused.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Various complaints have been received during the year regarding noise nuisances, varying from domestic noises to those created by industry. In all cases a satisfactory solution to the problem has been found without resorting to enforcement action.

THE ALKALI ETC. WORKS ORDER 1958

All factories carrying on processes which are registrable under the above legislation are supervised by the Alkali Inspectorate of the Department of the Environment and good co-operation between those Officers and this Council's Officers is achieved.

During the year various types of mineral workings became registerable under the Order, three such premises being registered in this area. These are limestome quarries in the Much Wenlock area where serious nuisances from dust have been experienced in the past.

PEST CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 requires a local authority to inspect all premises in their District and to ensure that any infestations of rats and mice are dealt with by the Authority (or by the occupier in the case of trade and agricultural premises). A total of 1,146 requests for the use of the service were received during the year.

All Council owned properties (including tips and sewage disposal works) are regularly inspected and treated when infestations are found.

The increase in the number of requests for this service has resulted from the Rodent Operators having achieved almost a 100% inspection of all premises in the District. This has not only provided valuable information relating to infestations but has proved to be a first class public relations exercise.

The problem of rats resistant to anti-coagulant poisons has again presented the Department with difficulties, with the regular use of toxic poisons being necessary in an increasingly large area of the District West of the River Severn. No such resistant infestations have as yet been found East of the River.

A further pest which has again been particularly troublesome in the more urban areas of the District has been the feral pigeon. Although considerable time has been given in an endeavour to control it, not very satisfactory results can be reported. Pigeons cause considerable damage to property, are dirty and are capable of carrying diseases which are communicable to man.

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There are 1,220 caravans stationed on 19 licensed multiple sites within the District. 31 of these on two sites are residential caravans, the remainder being used for holiday purposes. A further 30 caravans on individual sites are licensed.

Generally speaking it can be reported that all sites comply with their Site Licence Conditions and good co-operation is achieved with site owners.

A site for touring caravans was provided by The Caravan Club during the year at Presthope near Much Wenlock. The site, which was formerly a derelict railway station and goods yard, is leased to the Club by the Council. It provides accommodation for 80 caravans and it is intended that provision will also be made later for tents.

GYPSIES AND OTHER TRAVELLERS

The Caravan Sites Act 1968 requires the County Councils to provide sites for caravan dwellers. It is hoped that the Salop County Council will be providing various sites in the County but as yet no site has been provided.

No particular problems have arisen in this area where only the more regular gypsies are those who carry out casual farm work.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts	259
Housing Acts	2,110
Applications	539
Council Houses	237
Problem Families	47
Interviews with owners etc.	18
Drainage	215
Refuse Tips	19
Sewage Works	16
Water Supply - General	56
Samples	144
Rodent Control - Domestic	11
Trade	11
Farms	68
Factories Act	47
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	
Offices	6
Retail Shops	55
Wholesale Shops	1
Catering Establishments	20
Other than G.I. - Accidents	2
Re-visits	121
Meat Inspection - Slaughterhouse	1,018
Food and Drugs - Catering	67
Retail Shops	218
Licensed Premises	129
Butchers	49
Bakehouses	12
Fried Fish Shops	10
Ice Cream	35
Ice Cream Samples	52
Poultry Dressing	165
Market Stalls	26
Food and Drugs	195
Schools	6
Swimming Baths	43
Infectious Diseases - Enquiries	33
Houses Disinfected	5
Verminous Premises	7
Keeping of Animals	2
Offensive Accumulations	22
Miscellaneous	210
Caravans	59
Caravan Sites	56
Animal Boarding Establishments	16
Clean Air Act	86
Noise Abatement	21
Public Conveniences	37
River Notices	9
Total =	6,590

There were 243 complaints and requests for help and advice received by the Department during the year.

The preceding list shows the number of visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors throughout the year and also indicates the wide range of environmental health duties undertaken.

During the year it has again been possible to give increased emphasis to the Housing Survey, the results of which it is hoped will become a valuable asset showing the standard of housing in the area and the progress made.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are now two open-air swimming pools in the area which are open to the Public - at Swancote and Highley. The water for the pool at Swancote is supplied from a borehole and is treated by chlorination, filtration and aeration.

The pool at Highley is supplied with water from the mains and treated by chlorination and filtration.

In addition there are now seven schools in the area which are provided with a swimming pool and where sampling of the water is undertaken by the Health Department. The technique required to maintain a water of a satisfactory bacteriological quality in these swimming pools is one of some complexity and requires considerable care and experience by the persons responsible for their maintenance. The advice given to the persons carrying out this maintenance by the Public Health Inspectors during visits is a contribution to this end.

It must of course be appreciated that a swimming pool which is not maintained to a high standard of cleanliness is a potential health hazard to persons using the pool.

Results of samples taken are shown below:-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Highley	2	1
Swancote	2	2
Apley Park School	6	-
Worfield C. of E. School	5	-
Bridgnorth Secondary - Boys	-	-
Much Wenlock Secondary	4	-
Cotsbrook Hall School	-	-
City of Coventry School	3	-
St. Mary's C. of E. School	4	-
Totals	26	3

HOUSING

(Figures at 31st December 1971)

Number of inhabited houses		11,628
Number of Council owned houses		2,430
Number of houses completed:	a) Council	21
	b) Private	160
Number of applications for Council Houses		525
Number of houses under construction:	a) Council	66
	b) Private	154

POST WAR COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

Parish	Completed in year ending 31.12.71.	Under Construction 31.12.71.	Total Completed Post-War
Alveley	12	32	84
Barrow	-	-	12
Bridgnorth	-	-	607
Broseley	-	-	462
Chelmarsh	-	-	12
Chetton	-	-	6
Claverley	-	-	44
Ditton Priors	-	-	20
Eardington	-	-	16
Eudon George	-	-	6
Highley	-	-	168
Kinlet	-	-	14
Monkhopton	-	-	14
Morville	-	-	18
Neen Savage	-	-	10
Neenton	-	-	8
Shipton	-	-	6
Stockton	-	-	6
Stottesdon	-	-	15
Sutton Maddock	-	-	21
Tasley	-	-	6
Much Wenlock	9	34	146
Worfield	-	-	88
	21	66	1,789

PRE WAR COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

Bridgnorth		114
Broseley		95
Highley		56
Much Wenlock		82
	Total pre-war	347
Other Council owned houses, including houses converted to flats, other houses and slum clearance properties		284
Flats leased with shops		10
		2,430

FUTURE COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that work towards providing the following units of accommodation will be commenced in 1972.

Alveley

The second phase of this development was commenced during 1971 consisting of 32 houses. The first phase was completed during the year.

Much Wenlock

The development at High Causeway, consisting of 21 bungalows and 22 houses commenced during 1970 and continued throughout 1971.

It is anticipated that work on a further five bungalows of the two-bedroom type and the provision of a Community Centre for the use of residents of the Grouped Dwellings will be commenced in 1972.

Private Housing

The standard of older type housing in the area is improving year by year, an undoubted contribution having been the Council's policy of house improvement by means of grants under the Housing Acts.

However, there are still areas of housing in parts of the District which were the subject of rapid urbanisation resulting from the Industrial Revolution where standards of construction and siting are such that improvement would not appear to be worthwhile and Clearance Area procedure must be considered.

A keen assessment of the value to the community of this type of older house must be made in order to ensure that an area's character is not lost.

In other areas houses exist with sub-standard amenities and surroundings where it is hoped that Improvement Areas may be formulated. In such areas this type of approach will require the ability of the Council and its Officers to gain the co-operation of the community.

The Council continue to follow their policy of encouraging the improvement of houses by giving discretionary grants of 50% up to a maximum of £1,000.

The Housing Act 1969 with its increased grants for the improvement of houses has continued to give an impetus to this aspect of the Council's housing programme as can be seen from the figures below.

Housing Acts 1957/69

Discretionary Grants

	1970	1971
Number of dwellings in applications approved	39	38

Standard Grants

Number of applications received	46	41

UNFIT HOUSES

During the year 14 individually unfit houses were dealt with under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act 1957, being unfit for human habitation, as follows:-

Demolition Orders	3
Closing Orders	5
Undertakings to make fit	6

A further 2 unfit houses were demolished as a result of action both formal and informal under the Housing Acts.

The 5 properties in the King Street, Broseley Clearance Area 1970 were demolished during the year.

Further properties in the Foundry Lane/Pooles Yard area of Broseley have been acquired by the Council where it is hoped that eventual clearance of the site will allow for re-development in the future.

COUNCIL HOUSES

During the year the responsibility for the administration of housing allocation and welfare was made the responsibility of the Health Department.

The wish to achieve better housing conditions in an area is one of the basic disciplines of a Public Health Inspector's work. It is considered therefore that the knowledge and experience of the Public Health Inspectors in the areas housing conditions has made a useful contribution to this important aspect of the Council's work.

Except for certain parts of the District there would not appear to be the same need for Council accommodation to the extent which was evident only a few years ago. However the same cannot be said for the provision of accommodation for elderly persons where applications account for 26% of the total waiting list.

The story of the provision of this type of accommodation in Grouped Dwelling Schemes with the services of a Warden has been one of unqualified success and should be pursued with enthusiasm in the future.

No other section of the community is more vulnerable to poor housing conditions or shows the greatest benefit from being re-housed in accommodation with modern amenities.

At the end of the year the housing applications position could be summarised as follows:-

Applications	382
Applications for aged persons accommodation	143
	525
Tenants requiring a transfer of accommodation	137

The Council have continued in their policy of modernising pre-war Council houses and this programme will be continued in 1972.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the District, situated at Bridgnorth, Broseley, Claverley and Eardington where the standards of construction and hygiene are kept under constant review.

All animals slaughtered in the District during 1971 were inspected although this has meant the Inspectors working outside normal office hours, during evenings and weekends.

The total number of animals inspected was 51,355 compared with 44,115 during the previous year. This further increase was a result of the activities of a wholesale firm of butchers who use the Eardington Slaughterhouse.

As will be appreciated such a throughput necessitates a Public Health Inspector being on duty at the Slaughterhouse for considerable periods whilst killing is in progress.

The following table gives details of all carcases inspected and condemned at the Slaughterhouses during 1971:-

	Cattle inc. Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	3,755	44	36,228	11,328	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcase condemned	3	-	47	-	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	174	4	1,072	420	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	4.71	9.09	3.08	3.70	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	8	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.07	Nil
CYSTICERCOSIS					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The total quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 3 tons, 6 cwts. 0 Qtrs. 1 lb.

Generally speaking an extremely high quality of animal is used in this area for meat production and it is therefore of concern that there is such a high incidence of parasitic infections in all animals, warranting condemnation of various organs and sometimes carcases.

The facilities afforded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Veterinary Laboratory, Woodthorne, Wolverhampton, were utilised during the year and their opinions on the various specimens submitted were appreciated.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All meat found to be unfit for human consumption at the slaughterhouses is removed by approved knackers for sterilisation in accordance with the requirements of the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations 1969.

FOOD INSPECTION AND HYGIENE

A Council is required by the Food and Drugs Act and its relevant regulations to ensure that all food is fit for human consumption. In carrying out this duty, which receives little publicity, Public Health Inspectors make regular inspections of all food premises whether they be for the preparation, storage or sale of food. In addition to the condition of the premises, the cleanliness of the food handlers is closely supervised.

Attention has continued to be given to the date coding of foodstuffs and a general improvement can be reported in the awareness of the management of food premises in the removal of out of date foods from the shelves of shops. This is no doubt due to the emphasis given to this work in recent months.

The following foods inspected in shops, schools or restaurant kitchens were found to be unfit for human consumption and were satisfactorily disposed of by the Department.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Meat at retail shops		4	-	16
Canned meat, fruit & vegetables		11	-	1
Wet fish			3	7
Other Foods		7	2	4
Total	1	3	2	-

In addition to the above, the following frozen foods were surrendered as a result of breakdowns and electricity cuts affecting refrigerators and deep freeze cabinets:-

	Meat	Fish	Vegetables	Fruit	Pastry	Cake	Ice-cream
Packets	2335	2684	2056	78	653	257	1238

It will be seem from the above figures that a considerable amount of time has been taken up with the control of frozen food cabinets.

Whenever visits are made to retail food premises such cabinets are inspected.

It cannot be stressed too often to shopkeepers that the correct rotation of stock and maintenance of these cabinets is important.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Probably one of the more important aspects of a Public Health Inspector's work is that of emphasising to members of the public and especially persons engaged in the food industry, the need for good hygienic practices.

Such work is automatic when visiting food premises, but advantage has also been taken of speaking to school children and various organisations.

POULTRY DRESSING PREMISES

There are now 10 poultry dressing premises in the District but killing on a regular basis is only carried out at four of these.

These latter premises receive visits whenever killing takes place and some 25,530 birds were inspected of which 232 (0.90%) were rejected as being unfit for human consumption.

Other premises where killing is less frequent are visited to ensure that preparation of birds is carried out in a hygienic manner. A total of 135 visits have been made throughout the year to poultry dressing premises. Particular attention is given to farm premises at Christmas time when turkeys are killed and dressed.

The majority of birds prepared in the District are what are known as "New York Dressed" i.e. birds which are not eviscerated at the poultry dressing premises. The inspection of this type of bird presents obvious difficulties and is open to criticism as it is considered that the evisceration of poultry should not be permitted in catering kitchens but should take place where the bird is killed.

TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

(a) Type of Food Premises in the Area

1.	Butchers Shops	25
2.	Fried Fish Shops	8
3.	Bakehouses	7
4.	Licensed Premises	106
5.	Licensed Clubs	16
6.	Catering Premises	38
7.	General Provision Stores	135
8.	Schools	32
9.	Schools (with kitchens)	18
10.	Poultry Dressing Establishments	10
11.	Market Stalls	12

(b) Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955

1.	Manufacturers of preserved foods	17
2.	Ice-Cream (Retail)	110
3.	Ice-Cream (manufacture)	2

The following table shows the results obtained from 52 samples of ice-cream which were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination:-

GRADES

1	2	3	4	Total
36	3	6	7	52

As a guide to interpreting the above results, it is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1; 80% into Grades 1 and 2; not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

In the case of those samples which were found to be in Grade 4, follow-up visits were made and advice given to the retailers on correct storage and handling procedures.

Mobile vehicles based at premises outside the area are inspected whenever possible but it has proved difficult to carry out sampling procedures in respect of these vehicles. However a routine has been agreed with the Public Health Laboratory which will enable regular samples to be taken in the future.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The Food and Drugs Authority for this area is the Salop County Council and the following is a report received of the work carried out in this area by the Officers of that Authority during 1971:-

MILK SAMPLING

Pasteurised	17
Channel Islands Pasteurised	12
Untreated Farm Bottled	21
Untreated Channel Islands Farm Bottled	12
Untreated Bottled	2
Sterilised	7
Bulk Untreated ex Farm	63
	134

OTHER FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES

Marmalade	1	Paracetamol Elixir B.P.C.	1
Double Cream	1	Pork Pies	2
Glucose D.	1	Coffee & Chicory Essence	1
Self Raising Flour	1	Pain Relief Tablets	1
Table Jellies	1	Low Fat Soft Cheese	1
Shrimp Pate	1	Soft Cheese with Chives	1
Codeine Tablets B.P.	1	Anchovy Paste	1
Instant Creamed Potatoes	1	Tomato Ketchup	1
Mixed Pickles	1	Health Drink	1
Dried Skimmed Milk Powder	1	Rice Pudding with Cream	1
Bubblegum	1	Orange Crush Drink	1
Health Salts	1	Pain Relief Tablets	1
Smoked Bacon	1	Liver Pate	1
Lemon Mayonnaise	1	Butterscotch Topping	1
Skimmed Milk Soft Cheese	1	Gee's Linctus	1
Home Brewed Beer Pack	1	Cooking oil	1
Quorry Syrup	1	Dessicated Coconut	1
Grapefruit Juice	1	Brandy	1
Vodka	1	Sausage Rolls	1
Pork Sausage	1	Antacid Tablets	1
Sage & Onion Stuffing	1	Cold Relief Tablets	1
Pheasant Pate	1	Full Cream Soft Cheese	1
Cream of Tomato Soup	1		
			46

The sample of Butterscotch Topping was reported as being in an unsatisfactory condition having separated into two layers which were not capable of re-emulsification by shaking. The remaining stock held by the vendor appeared to be satisfactory and no further action was taken.

A bottle of milk was found to smell of paraffin. A warning letter was sent to the vendors.

A loaf of bread was found to be affected by mould. A warning letter was sent to the manufacturers.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION)(SPECIFIED AREA) ORDER, 1960

	Samples Obtained	Phosphatase Test - Passed	Methylene Blue Test Passed	Failed	Void	Turbidity Test
Pasteurised	107	107	95	3	9	
Channel Islands' Pasteurised	22	22	21	-	1	
Untreated Bottled	5		4	1		
Untreated Farm Bottled	28		25	2	1	
Untreated Channel Islands Farm Bottled	19		18	1	-	
Sterilised	2					2
	183					

Warning letters were sent to the Dealers concerned in respect of the Methylene Blue failures above and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informed in respect of the Untreated Farm Bottled failures.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year:-

Measles	125
Whooping Cough	9
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4
Scarlet Fever	3
	141

Measles was again prevalent among the child population. The biennial cycle which this disease used to present has not been so evident in recent years. It is greatly to be hoped that Vaccination against Measles will soon reduce the incidence of this unpleasant illness which can lead to serious and lasting complications. Such protection is available to all children from 15 months to 15 years who have not had the natural illness.

The incidence of the other notifiable infectious diseases was pleasingly low.

Four new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from this condition.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(a) Factories in which Secs. 1-4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	104	47	Nil	Nil
(c) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl. outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	104	47	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	17	13	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil Nil
Total	17	13	Nil	1	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK (Sections 110 & 111)

There were two outworkers notified in the District during the year.